

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a layer made of a first material buried in a substrate ~~comprising at least one~~ made of a second material, said substrate providing species able to combine with the second material to form the first material, the method comprising the following stages:

- formation in said substrate, at the level of the desired buried layer, and by a method excluding the formation of a porous layer, of a layer of microcavities intended to serve as centers of nucleation and volume accommodation ~~to produce said first material in said second material,~~

- formation of precipitate embryos of the first material from the nucleation centers ~~formed, the precipitate embryos corresponding to the first material,~~

- growth of the precipitates of the first material from the embryos ~~through~~ by concentration of said species ~~concentration corresponding to~~ introduced into the substrate in order to obtain said layer made of the first material and carried to the microcavity layer.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed by introducing gaseous species into the second material.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 23, in which the gaseous species used to form the layer of microcavities are chosen from among hydrogen, helium and fluorine.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed by an inclusion of gas provoked during formation of the substrate.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the layer of microcavities is formed from the interface constituted by the solidarization of a first substrate element and a second substrate element, providing said substrate.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the presence of particles at said interface.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the surface roughness of at least one element among the first substrate element and the second substrate element.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from the presence of micro-recesses at the surface of at least one element among the first substrate element and the second substrate element.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 26, in which the layer of microcavities results from stresses induced at said interface.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the precipitate embryos are formed from species present in the second material.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the precipitate embryos are formed from species introduced into the second material.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 32, in which said introduction is carried out by thermally activated diffusion.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 33, in which, the formation of microcavities implementing a thermal treatment, the precipitate embryos are formed simultaneously with the microcavities.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~35~~ 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced into the substrate by thermally activated diffusion.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~35~~ 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced under pressure into the substrate.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~35~~ 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species introduced into the substrate by means of a plasma.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the growth of the precipitates is produced by concentration of species present in the substrate, under the effect of a thermal treatment.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22, in which the formation of precipitate embryos and the growth of precipitates being two operations requiring a thermal treatment, these operations are carried out simultaneously.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 22 in which the layer of microcavities is formed in a semiconductor substrate.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 41, in which the substrate is ~~in~~ silicon and the buried layer is a layer of silicon oxide.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 22 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 35 therein, and by otherwise adding clarifying language and deleting superfluous language. Claim 35 has been canceled. Claims 36-38 have been amended to depend on Claim 22. Claim 42 has been amended to correct a clerical error.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 22-34 and 36-42 will be pending in the application.